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km. These facts lead him to conclude that the two atoll belts have subsided, while the two high-island belts have risen; in a word, that the region has suffered a gentle folding, the atolls growing upward in the faint synclines. True-scale profiles show the exterior slopes of the atolls to vary from 30° to 69° down to depths of from 100 to 400 fathoms. It may be added that the prevailing absence of atolls in the deep seas inclosed by the islands of the East Indian archipelago is plausibly explained by the too rapid subsidence of the sea bottoms and of any islands that may have risen from their deeper parts in that very unstable part of the earth's crust.

W. M. D.

Les Iles Wallis et Horn. (*The Wallis and Horne Islands, Pacific Ocean.*) Par le DR. M. VIALA. Bull. Soc. Neuchât. de Géogr., Vol. XXVIII (1919), pp. 209-83. With halftone plates and an outline map of Wallis, 1:60,000.

The author of the above-cited article served as resident physician on the islands, which are French possessions, from 1905 to 1909; his geographical descriptions are general; his notes on the natives are much more detailed. Wallis, northeast of Fiji, consists chiefly of a main island, Uvea, of volcanic origin, 18 km. long by 6 or 8 km. wide, and about 200 m. in altitude; but there are also nineteen small satellite islands close by, of which three are volcanic, and the others are of coral origin. About half of the latter stand on the fine barrier reef, which, about 100 m. broad and interrupted by only four narrow passes, encircles the main island. The inclosed lagoon is from 2 to 5 km. wide, and is much interrupted by shoals: its depth is not stated. A well-formed fringing reef surrounds Uvea, so that canoes can reach the shore only at high tide. A wharf for larger vessels is built across the fringing reef at the chief village. While the low coral-sand islands are covered with luxuriant vegetation, the uplands of the main island have an infertile clayey soil and bear but scanty vegetation, chiefly ferns; except that a few cavities, interpreted as ancient craters and about 50 m. deep, have a richer growth; one such cavity contains a small lake. The uplands descend to an irregular shore line, where sand flats, often inclosing shallow lagoons of small size, afford the only cultivable ground; here the villages lie and here the coco-nut palm flourishes, yielding the most important commercial product of the islands; but rats abound and injure the crop. There are no streams, but springs emerge at the inner border of the sand flats. The southeast trade wind, blowing continuously and often

with violence from April to October, gives fair weather and leads the European residents to occupy the eastern coast of the island. From November to April the wind is light and variable with not infrequent calms; rains are then heavy and the high humidity makes the weather next to unbearable.

The Horne Islands are about 250 km. nearer Fiji; but as they are in east longitude from Paris, while Wallis is in west longitude, their dates differ by a day. Here are two volcanic islands; Fotuna, 40 km. in circuit and 850 m. in height, and Alofi, 20 km. in circuit and 200 m. in height. Both are singularly unlike Wallis in having strong slopes, rich forests that shade deep ravines drained by fine streams, only discontinuous fringing reefs instead of an encircling barrier reef, and therefore no good harbors. Viala describes these islands as "two pyramids, of which the flanks plunge into the sea in abrupt cliffs" (*falaises*); but the last term can hardly be correct, for the views of the islands on Hydrographic Office chart 1986 show the slopes to descend with almost even declivity from summit to shore. It may be added that neither the chart nor Viala's description suffices to determine whether the deep ravines lead down to embayments in the shore line or not; also, that in view of the presence of a number of submarine banks or "drowned atolls" in the north—a region without rival in this respect in the whole Pacific and for which the reviewer has therefore proposed the name "Darwin Hermatopelago" (*Bull. Geol. Soc. Amer.*, Vol. XXIX [1918], p. 531)—it is likely that the absence of a barrier reef here is to be explained by recent submergence at a rate too fast for reef upgrowth: hence whatever barrier had been formed around the two islands previous to this submergence should exist now as a submarine bench. The lack of soundings makes it impossible to test this supposition.

Viala gives interesting accounts of the natives, of whom there are 4,500 on Wallis and 1,500 on Fotuna and Alofi, with descriptions of their various customs, of the Catholic missions by which their mode of living has been much improved, and of the prevalent diseases. A noteworthy peculiarity of the natives is their boldness in risking inter-island voyages in their canoes, with only the rudest means of laying their course.

W. M. D.

The Reed-Wekusko Map-Area, Northern Manitoba. By F. J. ALCOCK. Ottawa: Canadian Geological Survey, Memoir 119, 1920. Pp. 47, pls. 6, maps 2.

The discovery of gold-bearing quartz veins and rich sulphide deposits in basic pre-Cambrian rocks of northern Manitoba has attracted con-